

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/648,435

REMARKS

Claims 3-6 presently are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has again objected to dependent claims 3-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

However, the Examiner has continued to reject claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beuch '844. More specifically, the Examiner acknowledges Applicant's argument filed July 6, 2005 wherein it was asserted that Beuch does not rely on the tabs to fix the upper and lower shells together. However, the Examiner alleges that Beuch uses the tabs to fix; that is, to make firm, stable or stationary, the upper and lower shells together, and they hold the position of the shells in place for subsequent welding. Accordingly, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1 and 2.

Without acquiescing to the correctness of the Examiner's position, Applicants have rewritten dependent claims 3, 4 and 5 in independent form by combining them with claim 1. In addition, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

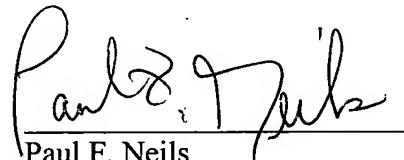
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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